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SENATE-INMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE SENATE ON THURSDAY UNANIMOUSLY CONFIRMED NAVY ADMIRAL BOBBY RAY INMAN AS PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CHOICE TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

"IF THERE WAS EVER THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE RIGHT JOB AT THE RIGHT TIME, THIS IS IT," SAID SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER, R-ARIZ., CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE.

BEFORE CONFIRMING INMAN BY A VOTE OF 94 TO 0, THE SENATE ALSO GAVE APPROVAL TO INMAN'S PROMOTION TO FULL ADMIRAL.

INMAN, 49, HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS MILITARY CAREER IN VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE POSTS, INCLUDING DIRECTOR OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

MOSTLY RECENTLY, HE WAS DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, WHICH HANDLES THE SUPER-SECRET JOB OF BREAKING OTHER NATIONS' CODES AND LISTENING IN ON RADIO AND SATELLITE COMMUNICATION.

INMAN WAS REPORTEDLY RELUCTANT TO LEAVE THAT POST AND DID SO ONLY ON THE URGING OF CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM J. CASEY AND MEMBERS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE.

DURING HIS CONFIRMATION HEARING, INMAN SAID HE EXPECTED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE, LEAVING THE SUPERVISION OF COVERT SPY OPERATIONS TO CASEY.

INMAN ALSO SAID HE BELIEVES U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES BADLY UNDERESTIMATED THE SIZE AND DURATION OF THE SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP DURING THE 1970s.

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AM-INTELLIGENCE 2-5

BY STEVE GERSTEL

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER, THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, SAID THURSDAY THE UNITED STATES PROBABLY RANKS ON A PAR WITH ANY OTHER NATION IN GATHERING INTELLIGENCE -- BUT NOT IN ASSESSING OR UNDERSTANDING IT.

GOLDWATER, R-ARIZ., SAID THE WEAKNESS WAS TRACEABLE TO THE PERIOD WHEN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY -- NOTABLY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY -- CAME UNDER HEAVY SCRUTINY AND CRITICISM.

DURING THAT ERA, GOLDWATER SAID, MANY SENIOR PEOPLE WITH THE EXPERIENCE TO ANALYZE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION LEFT AND ONLY NOW ARE THE CIA AND THE OTHER INTELLIGENCE GROUPS BEGINNING TO ATTRACT RECRUITS TO REPLACE THEM.

"I THINK I CAN SAFELY REPORT THAT INTELLIGENCE GATHERING IN THIS COUNTRY IS PROBABLY ON A PAR WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY; THAT INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT IS NOT ON A PAR WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF ASSESSMENTS OF INTELLIGENCE IS NOT ON PAR WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY," GOLDWATER SAID.

GOLDWATER SPOKE BRIEFLY BEFORE THE SENATE CONFIRMED BY A VOTE OF 94-0 THE NOMINATION OF ADM. BOBBY R. INMAN AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CIA AND APPROVED HIS PROMOTION FROM VICE ADMIRAL TO ADMIRAL ON A VOICE VOTE.

INMAN, 49, WHO SERVED THE LAST FOUR YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, WAS RECOMMENDED TO NEW CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM CASEY BY THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE.

GOLDWATER CALLED INMAN "THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE RIGHT JOB AT THE RIGHT TIME."

"THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY HAS GONE THROUGH SOME VERY TRYING TIMES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS," GOLDWATER SAID. "THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, IN PARTICULAR, CAME UNDER GREAT CRITICISM DURING THE DAYS OF THE SO-CALLED CHURCH COMMITTEE TO THE END THAT WE LOST MANY OF OUR SENIOR PEOPLE.

"LOSING SENIOR PEOPLE IN INTELLIGENCE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THESE MEN AND WOMEN HAVE REACHED THE POINT OF EXPERIENCE AT WHICH THEY ARE ABLE TO ASSESS THE INTELLIGENCE WE GATHER," HE SAID.

BUT, HE SAID, "WE ARE NOW RECEIVING MANY APPLICATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO WORK IN INTELLIGENCE AND IF THIS CONTINUES, WE WILL BE ABLE TO REBUILD THE OLDER GROUP WHO DID THE ASSESSING."

U. S. Intelligence Units Criticized by a Top Aide

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 — Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, the director of the National Security Agency, who has been nominated to be Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, said today that intelligence agencies had underestimated the Soviet military threat.

He said during his confirmation hearing that the United States had "erred substantially more on the conservative side in assessing the Soviet threat."

Admiral Inman, whose nomination won unanimous endorsement in the Senate Intelligence Committee, said assertions that the military buildup had been exaggerated to justify United States budget increases were "flatly wrong."

He said intelligence agencies suffered from a shortage of staff, specifically a lack of trained linguists. The National Security Agency, which he headed, is charged with monitoring the communications of foreign countries.

He said the Central Intelligence Agency may have to "build bridges" to the academic world to create incentives for improved language training.

STATINTL

Inman Wins Hill Panel OK For No. 2 Position at CIA

STATINTL

The Senate Intelligence Committee yesterday unanimously recommended confirmation of Navy Adm. Robert Inman to become deputy director of the CIA.

Inman, who since 1977 has headed the National Security Agency, was expected to be easily confirmed by the full Senate by the end of this week.

In his new job, Inman, a career military man, will be deputy to William J. Casey, the Wall Street lawyer and political adviser to President Reagan, already confirmed by the Senate as CIA director.

Shortly before the intelligence panel took its informal ballot, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted to approve Inman's promotion to full admiral.

In testimony before the intelligence committee, Inman, 50, said Casey would be responsible for the CIA's covert spy operations.

Inman, meanwhile, said he will look after the budget and administration of the agency, technical methods of intelligence collection like spy satellites and the CIA's ability to correctly analyze the information it gathers.

As director of the super-secret NSA, Inman headed an agency that monitors radio and telephonic signals of other nations to gather intelligence.

Inman held intelligence jobs through much of his Navy career, including three years as director of Naval Intelligence.

Through much of the 1970s, Inman said, the CIA badly misjudged and underestimated the rapid buildup of Soviet military forces.

Despite predictions that Soviet citizens would demand less military spending and greater production of consumer goods, Inman said the Russians added 3 percent or more to their military budgets annually, including extensive expansion of defense production facilities.

Meanwhile, he said, the United States slowed its defense expansion because of the war in Vietnam and the impact of inflation on military spending.

Inman estimated that the Soviets have three times as many people as the United States working in its intelligence agency, and said the CIA suffers from a marked shortage of competent intelligence officers, both analysts and covert agents.

Over the past few years, Inman said, "the national security account suffered a big reduction," which needs to be reversed.

The CIA, Inman said, needs many more analysts who know enough about various countries, including Third World nations, to make it possible to understand political and economic changes quickly.

To find competent new analysts and linguists, also in short supply, Inman said he plans to reopen ties between the CIA and American universities and colleges. Many universities have been reluctant to acknowledge connections to the agency because of disclosures of past CIA abuses, including involvement in foreign assassination attempts during the 1960s.

Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, had personally recommended that Reagan and Casey choose Inman for the deputy's job, and Inman was warmly praised by all members of the panel.

Associated Press

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THE WASHINGTON POST
4 February 1981

Inman Wins Quick Approval by Senate Panel for No. 2 Post at CIA

By Michael Getler
Washington Post Staff Writer

Navy Vice Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, the soft-spoken superstar of the U.S. intelligence community, won quick and unanimous approval from the Senate Select Intelligence Committee yesterday as President Reagan's choice to be deputy director of the CIA.

Earlier in the day, the Senate Armed Services Committee endorsed a presidential recommendation for a fourth star for the 49-year-old officer, which will place Inman among the youngest full admirals in Navy history.

Inman, with 28 years in the Navy, much of it as an intelligence officer, has won widespread acclaim within the government as the director of the supersecret National Security Agency (NSA), which he has headed since July 1977.

Inman wanted to stay at the NSA rather than move into the deputy's job at CIA, and he told the intelligence committee yesterday that he was appearing before it as something of a "draftee." Committee Chairman Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) told Inman that he had urged CIA Director William J. Casey to go after him for the No. 2 job because, Goldwater said, he "didn't know a man in the business who was more highly regarded."

Sen. Jake Garn (R-Utah) said Inman was "the most direct and forthcoming witness" to come before the committee in recent years and praised the admiral for "never hedging his opinions or worrying about politics." Inman's directness and knowledge are the characteristics that have

won him so much praise. The admiral tried to take it in stride yesterday, telling the panel members that, "I hope we'll both feel at the end of two years that it was the right choice."

The NSA director presides over some of the nation's most sensitive communications monitoring and code-breaking equipment. But at the CIA, the intelligence chores are even broader. Under questioning by the committee yesterday, Inman said he was worried most about the manpower problems in the intelligence community.

For a variety of reasons — some related to the costs of Vietnam and the expense of equipment — intelligence manpower levels, particularly the number of experienced analysts, have steadily eroded over the last eight years, Inman said, adding that he hopes for some "redress" despite the federal hiring freeze. He said it was vitally important to have more analysts who understand cultures, religions, politics and economics and who speak languages. There is simply no substitute for that in terms of making sense of the information gathered, he said.

Inman believes there is a "generation gap" in the intelligence community caused by the retirement of officials who joined in the post-World War II era. He said there was a need for keeping specialists in the same job without sacrificing their promotion prospects. The U.S. capability for understanding foreign languages and cultures "is poor and getting worse," he said, as there are fewer Americans who speak a second language at home.

Pointing out that there are many young people with the aptitude to

learn languages, but that it takes years of training, Inman said one of his jobs will be to improve ties with the academic community. He suggested the intelligence community might have to find new ways to recruit and train language students, even if it requires sponsoring programs in universities.

Inman said current U.S. intelligence capabilities are "outstanding" when it came to counting things, such as enemy missiles, by technical means and "very impressive" in terms of providing warning time. But in assessing trends, U.S. agencies do less well. There are areas of the world where problems often develop rapidly and where there is scanty intelligence collection, he said.

Though Washington has a "fairly significant lead" over Moscow on the technical side of data collection, the Soviets apply about three times as much manpower to solving intelligence problems, Inman said. The admiral said the best U.S. intelligence capability is in the military field and that it comes from higher standards forged by competition. Inman said he would "urge strongly" against any move to consolidate intelligence analysis among the various agencies.

In response to a question, Inman said the suggestion, which occasionally surfaces in the press, that the U.S. intelligence community overestimates the Soviet threat to push for higher military budgets is "flatly wrong."

On "rare occasions," he said, intelligence assessments have overestimated Soviet strengths, but on many more occasions, he said, the U.S. estimates have proved to be too conservative.

REUTER

3 Feb 81

27AM-INMAN

BY WILLIAM SCALLY

WASHINGTON, Feb 3, REUTER -- PRESIDENT REAGAN'S NOMINEE FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SAID TODAY U.S. INTELLIGENCE WAS SHORT OF MANPOWER AND NOT AS READY AS IT OUGHT TO BE TO DEAL WITH INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

THE NOMINEE, VETERAN INTELLIGENCE EXPERT BOBBY RAY INMAN, GAVE THE ASSESSMENT TO THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE AS IT ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSED HIS NOMINATION.

THE 49-YEAR-OLD NAVY VICE ADMIRAL - SOON TO BE PROMOTED TO ADMIRAL - HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF THE SUPER-SECRET NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY SINCE 1977. THE NSA SPECIALIZES IN ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING AND CRACKING ENEMY CODES.

AT THE CIA HE WILL SERVE AS NO. 2 TO WILLIAM CASEY, 67, AN OFFICER IN THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES, FORERUNNER OF THE CIA, DURING WORLD WAR II.

"I WOULD PUT OUR NO. 1 PROBLEM AS MANPOWER," VICE ADMIRAL INMAN TOLD THE COMMITTEE.

HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN A REDUCTION IN STRENGTH DURING THE VIETNAM WAR; MANPOWER HAD BEEN TRADED OFF FOR TECHNOLOGY; AND COVERT OPERATIONS CAPABILITY HAD BEEN CUT BACK.

TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS HAD OFFSET THE LOSS TO SOME DEGREE, HE SAID; BUT ADDED: "THERE ARE NO SUBSTITUTES FOR ANALYSTS WHO UNDERSTAND THE CULTURES, THE POLITICS, THE ECONOMICS, THE INTERNAL SECURITY AND MILITARY CAPABILITY OF A COUNTRY."

WHILE TECHNOLOGY PROVIDED INTELLIGENCE ON AMERICA'S PRINCIPAL ADVERSARIES, U.S. INTELLIGENCE WAS FAR LESS PREPARED FOR PROBLEMS SUCH AS TERRORISM, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT ON CURRENT EVENTS THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY DID A GOOD JOB. "ON COUNTING THINGS AND NUMBERS WE ARE OUTSTANDING."

BUT HE GAVE LOWER MARKS TO ASSESSING FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, SAYING U.S. INTELLIGENCE WAS LESS READY FOR POSSIBLE STRIFE IN EUROPE; INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR RAW MATERIALS; AND INSTABILITY IN THE UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD.

VICE ADMIRAL INMAN SAID THE SOVIET UNION PROBABLY HAD THREE TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE IN INTELLIGENCE AS THE UNITED STATES, ALTHOUGH THE AMERICANS HAD A GREATER ADVANTAGE IN TECHNOLOGY.

U.S. INTELLIGENCE, HE SAID, HAD DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITING FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXPERTS. FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION WAS "POOR

Nominee to No. 2 at CIA Called Master of Spying

By Phil Gailey

Washington Star Staff Writer

Bobby Ray Inman is a whiz of a spy who has never been out in the cold.

Satellites, microwaves and computers have taken much of the chill out of modern-day espionage, and Inman is considered a master of these tools.

As the Reagan administration's choice to be the No. 2 man at the Central Intelligence Agency, Navy Vice Adm. Inman, a 49-year-old workaholic, is getting a fourth star — the price he exacted for taking the job — and the kind of praise that intelligence officials rarely receive.

The Senate Intelligence Committee, which holds hearings on his nomination today, is expected to approve Inman's appointment unanimously.

Inman's selection, in a political sense, is a master stroke. It is reassuring both to those who want to see U.S. intelligence operations strengthened and to those who don't want to see the CIA crashing through the forest in its previous "rogue elephant" role.

Sen. Barry Goldwater, chairman of the Intelligence Committee and a harsh critic of efforts to rein in the CIA in recent years, thinks as highly of Inman as does former Vice President Walter Mondale, who, as a senator, was involved in efforts to curb U.S. intelligence activities.

"There's not a mark on him," says a former admiral who worked with Inman in Naval Intelligence and later in the Defense Intelligence Agency. "He's the kind of professional who can help make our intelligence operations both effective and responsible."

Since 1977 Inman has headed the National Security Agency, the nation's largest and most sophisticated intelligence organization, cracking enemy codes, and analyzing information snatched from the sky by sophisticated instruments as it passes between governments and other sources.

Sometimes the agency's eavesdropping extends to private citizens. Billy Carter is one example. Early last year, while the Justice Department was investigating Carter's dealings with Libya, the agency picked up information from intelligence sources that Libya was about

Inman passed the information to then-CIA director Stansfield Turner, who took it to the White House and to then-Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti.

As deputy to CIA Director William J. Casey, who was an OSS operative during World War II, Inman will bring a background to the agency that will complement Casey's. Some even see Inman becoming the real master of U.S. intelligence because of his talents.

Casey, 67, is said, even by his friends, to be somewhat disorganized when it comes to details, occasionally forgetful and out of touch with modern intelligence techniques.

"Inman is ideal to back up Casey," said a former intelligence official who knows both men. "Casey can keep his focus on the big picture and Inman will make the place a professional operation again. Inman is strong in nearly every area where Casey is weak."

The Casey-Inman team is in keeping with CIA tradition. When a civilian heads the agency, the deputy spot goes to a military man, and vice versa. The former CIA director was Stansfield Turner, a Navy admiral, and his deputy was Frank Carlucci, a civilian who has been tapped by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger for the No. 2 post at the Pentagon.

Inman, a native of Rhoadesboro, Texas, entered the Navy after graduation from the University of Texas in 1950. He became an ensign in 1952 and advanced through officer ranks until his promotion to vice admiral in 1976.

His career includes service as assistant naval attaché in Stockholm, Sweden, a key listening post for events in the Soviet Union, and assistant chief of staff for intelligence under the commander of the Pacific Fleet in 1973-74. During the following three years he served as director of the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington and as vice director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. He was named head of the National Security Agency in 1977.

Little is known about Inman beyond his professional life, even by his former associates. Retired Adm. Rex Rectanus, who worked with Inman in the Office of Naval Intelligence, remembers his former colleague as a "workaholic with few outside activities that I know of."

Inman: "He is a first class officer, competent and professional in every respect. When he has something to say, he says it. Beyond that, I don't know what to say."

On Capitol Hill, where lawmakers have been impressed with Inman's briefing skills, he is known as a straight-shooter who uses facts to make his points and keeps his personal opinions to himself unless asked for them.

Inman also has demonstrated that he is capable of avoiding a knee-jerk reaction in dealing with such questions as homosexuality in the ranks of intelligence officials. Last year, for example, he reportedly refused to oust a security agency analyst who was found to be a homosexual. Inman even allowed the man to keep his security clearance.

That raised some grumbles inside intelligence organizations, which generally dismiss homosexuals on the grounds that they are vulnerable to blackmail attempts.



VICE ADM. BOBBY R. INMAN
Approval expected

TODAY IN CONGRESS**Senate**

Meets at 10:15 a.m.

Committees:

Appropriations Subcomm. on Labor-HHS — 10 a.m. Open. To begin hearings on proposed budget estimates for FY '82, for the employment and training programs of the Dept. of Labor. 1114 Dirksen Office Bldg.

Appropriations Subcomm. on Energy and Water Development — 2 p.m. Open. To begin hearing on proposed budget estimates for FY '82 for certain programs of the Army Corps of Engineers. S-128 Capitol.

Armed Services Comte. — 10 a.m. To receive testimony on Army programs in review of the FY '82 DOD military auth. request. 212 Russell Office Bldg.

Foreign Relations Comte. — 10 a.m. Open. To vote on the nomination of Justice William P. Clark of Calif., to be deputy sec. of state, and also other pending comte. business. 4221 DOB.

Select Comte. on Intelligence — 2 p.m. Open. To hold hearings on the nomination of E.R. "Bobby" Inman of Calif., to be deputy director of CIA. 6202 DOB.

Republican Policy — 12:30 p.m. Closed. Business-luncheon meeting. S-207 Cap.

House

Meets at noon.

Committees:

Appropriations — 1 p.m. Closed. Defense Subc. worldwide intelligence briefing. H-140 Capitol.

Appropriations — 10 a.m. Open. Energy & Water Develop. Subc. On North Atlantic Div.,

Missouri River Div. 2362 Rayburn House Office Bldg.

Appropriations — 10 a.m. Open. HUD-Indep. Agencies Subc. American Battle Monuments Comm., cemetery expenses, Army. H-143 Cap.

Appropriations — 10 a.m. Open. Legis. Subc. On Library of Congress. H-302 Cap.

Appropriations — 10 a.m. Open. State, Justice, Comm. & Judiciary Subc. On the Judiciary. H-310 Cap.

Armed Services — 10 a.m. Open. May close. Full comte. On FY '82 defense request. 2118 RHOB.

Budget — 10 a.m. Open. Full comte. On possible program reductions for FY '82. 210 Cannon House Office Bldg.

Energy & Commerce — 2 p.m. Open. Full comte. Organizational meeting. 2123 RHOB.

Foreign Affairs — 10 a.m. Open. Democratic caucus. 2172 RHOB.

Government Operations — 9:30 a.m. Open. Full comte. Organizational meeting. 2154 RHOB.

Interior & Insular Affairs — 2 p.m. Open. Full comte. Organizational meeting. 1324 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Public Works & Trans. — 10 a.m. Closed. Democratic caucus. 2253 RHOB.

Rules — 1 p.m. Closed. Full comte caucus. (2 p.m.) Organizational meeting. H-313 Cap.

Science & Tech. — 9:30 a.m. Closed. Democratic caucus. 2318 RHOB.

Veterans Affairs — 10 a.m. Closed. Democratic caucus. 334 CHOB.

Ways & Means — 10 a.m. Open. Full comte. On public debt limitation. 1100 LHOB.

Nominee for Deputy Director of C.I.A. An Electronic-Age Intelligence Expert

By PHILIP TAUBMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 — For a man considered by many to be America's master spy, Bobby Ray Inman is something of an anomaly. He has never taken part in a covert operation or spent much time collecting intelligence data in the field. His name evokes the spirit of a country music ballad more than an espionage thriller.

But Vice Admiral Inman, picked by President Reagan to be Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, the nation's second-highest intelligence organization, is the prototype of an electronic-age spy.

His tools are satellites, microwave stations and computers. As director of the National Security Agency since 1977, Admiral Inman has overseen the nation's largest and most expensive intelligence organization. Its mission includes cracking enemy codes, developing unbreakable ciphers for the United States and, most importantly, monitoring, translating and analyzing worldwide communications among nations, selected foreign firms and some corporations.

The security agency is part of the Defense Department and independent of the Central Intelligence Agency, which uses information collected by the security agency in preparing intelligence reports for the President. The lines of authority are blurred, however, because the C.I.A. director has the additional responsibility of coordinating the Government's various intelligence-gathering operations, including those of the National Security Agency.

Earns Praise From Many

Admiral Inman's performance has drawn praise from several quarters. Harold Brown, who supervised the security agency as Secretary of Defense in the Carter Administration, called Admiral Inman "one of the brightest military people I have ever known."

Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale said that Admiral Inman was "brilliant in every respect." Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, recommended Admiral Inman for the No. 2 spot at the intelligence agency to William J. Casey, the director.

The Intelligence Committee has scheduled confirmation hearings Tuesday for Admiral Inman. Swift and unanimous approval of his nomination by the committee and the Senate seems assured. The White House has also recommended that Mr. Inman be promoted to full admiral. If the Senate concurs, as expected, Mr. Inman, who is 49 years old, would be one of the youngest four-star admirals in Navy history.

Information available on Admiral Inman's rise to the top of the intelligence agency is willing to break the cautious conventions of his trade.

Last year, for instance, he permitted a

security agency analyst who was found to be a homosexual to keep his job and security clearances, according to intelligence sources. Intelligence organizations usually dismiss homosexuals or deprive them of their security clearances because they are considered vulnerable to blackmail.

Senators who deal frequently with Admiral Inman said that his briefings differed from those given by most other officials. "Most intelligence officials hedge their comments," said Senator Joseph R. Biden, Democrat of Delaware. "Inman is a straight talker. I've watched him blow away other officials and their comments by providing simple, non-opinionated data. He deals in facts."

Admiral Inman's colleagues said that he occasionally slipped out of Washington and traveled tourist class on commercial airlines to address small groups of professors and students at Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford and other schools in an effort to build bridges between the intelligence-gathering and academic worlds. His friends said that Admiral Inman, dressed in a business suit and driving a rented car unaccompanied by aides, looked like a traveling salesman.

Information Begets Power

The modest demeanor belies the importance of Admiral Inman's position. In a city where information is often said to be power, Admiral Inman, as the security agency's director, has access to more raw intelligence information than anyone in Washington.

The security agency's operations are conducted in strict secrecy. Its headquarters is a large office building on the grounds of Fort Meade, in the Maryland countryside near Washington. Intelligence officials estimated the agency's budget to be more than \$2 billion a year, larger than that of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The security agency's headquarters is the nerve center for a network of facilities and employees around the world, as well as numerous satellites that monitor communications. Aided by computers, the staff sifts through cable traffic, telephone calls and coded messages looking for anything considered significant on subjects ranging from Soviet military activity to world oil trade, according to intelligence officials.

In the 1960's and early 1970's, the security agency's eavesdropping capabilities were used domestically as part of the Government's effort to gather data on antiwar groups. Such practices were stopped by the Ford Administration and are now prohibited by Justice Department guidelines.

There are occasions, however, when information collected by the security agency involving American citizens is used to inform the Justice Department. Billy Carter's dealings with Libya were an example, according to Justice Department officials.

In April, when the department's investigation into Billy Carter's ties with Libya was dormant, Admiral Inman received a report indicating that the Libyan Government was planning to pay President Carter's brother \$200,000.

Since the possibility of a violation of American law existed, and because Billy Carter appeared to be the target of a Libyan plan to gain influence in the United States, Admiral Inman informed Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti, Justice Department sources said.

Born in Texas

Admiral Inman was born April 4, 1931, in Rhonessboro, Tex. He entered the Navy after graduation from the University of Texas in 1950, becoming an ensign in 1952. He is married and is the father of two boys.

He rose through the ranks rapidly and began specializing in intelligence work in 1961, serving as chief intelligence officer for the 7th Fleet; naval attaché in Sweden, and Director of Naval Intelligence from 1974 to 1976. From 1976 to 1977, he served as vice director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. In July 1977 he was named director of the National Security Agency.

Admiral Inman's first name, Bobby, rather than Robert, was proposed by his grandfather, friends said.